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**THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**COMMITTEES:**  
HEALTH POLICY,  
MINORITY VICE CHAIR  
ECONOMIC AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Oct. 8, 2025

Sen. Sam Singh, Chair  
Senate Oversight Committee  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chair Singh,

I respectfully request that the Oversight Committee hold a hearing following a recent [audit](#) by the Office of the Auditor General that found the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services failed to protect the rights of psychiatric patients.

I [requested](#) the audit after [hearing tragic accounts](#) from former patients and families with loved ones treated at the former Hawthorn Center. The OAG's findings confirmed serious concerns within the Office of Recipient Rights, including:

- Nearly 30% of sampled complaints alleging abuse, neglect, serious injury or death were not retrieved or acted on in a timely manner.
- More than 10% of sampled complaints lacked an ORR date stamp, making it impossible to determine whether action was timely.
- Video and audio systems at state psychiatric hospitals were often missing or not working.
- ORR had no process to monitor state psychiatric hospitals' incident reports, which could have led to undetected and/or unreported rights violations.

The Legislature must act to strengthen oversight and ensure accountability for those responsible for protecting vulnerable patients in the state's care. Therefore, I formally request a hearing to address the glaring failures within MDHHS.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if I can provide additional information or testimony in support of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael Webber  
State Senator  
9th District

Ed McBroom  
State Senator  
38th District

Jonathan Lindsey  
State Senator  
17th District